

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Board of Registration in Medicine

FOR THE

Year Ending November 30, 1932

DIVISION OF REGISTRATION

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL SERVICE AND REGISTRATION: *Division of registration*



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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN MEDICINE

State House, November 30, 1932.

To WILLIAM F. CRAIG, *Director of Registration*:

SIR: The Board of Registration in Medicine respectfully submits the following as its annual report for the year ending November 30, 1932:

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR

Expenditures.

Salaries of members of Board	\$4,300.00
Salaries of members of Chiropody Department	600.00
General expenses of Board and Department	1,165.96
Traveling expenses of Board and Department	361.39
	\$6,427.35

Receipts.

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE.

352 examination fees @ \$25	\$8,805.00
331 interne fees @ \$5	1,655.00
370 student fees @ \$1	370.00
139 re-examination fees @ \$3	417.00
Fees for certified statements	62.00
	\$11,309.00

DEPARTMENT OF CHIROPODY.

23 examination fees @ \$15	\$ 345.00
505 renewal fees @ \$2	1,010.00
3 re-examination fees @ \$2	6.00
Fees for certified statements	6.00
	\$ 1,367.00

TOTAL	\$12,676.00
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Since the establishment of the Board in 1894, the fees received from applicants for registration, renewals and certified statements, and interest on deposits, and paid into the Treasury of the Commonwealth, amount to \$296,346.15. The expenditures of the Board amount to \$255,015.62. In dollars and cents, therefore, the Commonwealth has received \$41,330.53 in excess of the total amount expended.

The number of persons applying for registration during this year is 357. Of these, 55 have been registered by virtue of their National Board registration; 246 applicants were examined for the first time; 47 re-examination applicants filed new applications, and 9 applicants who were accepted did not appear for examination. Of those who had failed in previous examinations, 187 were re-examined. Registrations have been granted to 332 internes and to 370 students.

TABLE I.

Applicants	Examined	Registered	Rejected	Percentage rejected
March	99	44	55	55
July	172	77	95	55
September	5	5	0	0
November	157	82	75	47
	433	208	225	51

Applications for registration in medicine must be made upon blanks furnished by the Board, and must be accompanied by two photographs of the applicant; said photographs must be size $3\frac{1}{4}$ by $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches. One of the photographs must be certified by the dean or registrar of the medical school from which the applicant is graduated, or by a person authorized to administer oaths, and who is known to this Board. All applications, together with the required fee of \$25, and the required vouchers, must be filed not less than seven days before the date of examination.

On receipt of an application properly executed, a card of admission is issued to the applicant, showing his application number and the date and place of the examination. One of the photographs submitted with the application is also returned with the card, and the number of the application is designated on the photograph, and both card and photograph must be presented by the applicant at the time of the examination. No one is admitted except by card bearing date and place of examination. Cards are issued to rejected applicants entitled to a re-examination upon payment of a fee of \$3, when applied for not later than Tuesday of the week next preceding the date of an examination. Three regular examinations yearly are provided, beginning respectively, on the second Tuesday in March, July and November.

The examinations are conducted in the English language only, as required by law, and are intended to cover substantially the instruction given in the high-grade medical schools in this country. The subjects on which the examinations are principally conducted are anatomy and histology, pathology, bacteriology, surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, diagnosis and therapeutics, pediatrics, and toxicology, psychiatry, biology, chemistry and physics.

The following table shows the number of diplomates of the National Board of Medical Examiners who have been granted registration in Massachusetts since 1923 when they were first accepted by endorsement of their National Board credentials:—

TABLE II

Number Registered	Year	Number Registered	Year
1	1923	26	1928
6	1924	34	1929
10	1925	44	1930
21	1926	40	1931
23	1927	55	1932

The certificate of the National Board is now recognized by the licensing authorities of the following forty-three states and territories: Alabama, Arizona, California, Canal Zone, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Porto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. The medical examining boards of nearly all of the remaining states plan to recognize the National Board Certificate as soon as the necessary amendments to their medical practice laws can be secured. Diplomates of the National Board are required by some states to meet certain regulations. The additional requirements of any state will be sent upon request to the office of the National Board.

Tabulations showing the number of first examinations and re-examinations and average ratings of applicants from medical schools represented by not less than three applicants follow:

TABLE III

School	First Examination		Re-examination	
	Number of applicants	Average rating	Number of applicants	Average rating
Boston University School of Medicine	29	77.7		
College of Physicians and Surgeons, Boston	5	72.9	11	69.8
Harvard Medical School	29	81.4		
Massachusetts College of Osteopathy	10	68.6	22	62.2
Middlesex College of Medicine and Surgery	37	75.6	53	65.6
Tufts College Medical School	59	78.6	6	71.7
Des Moines Still College of Osteopathy			3	62.0
Georgetown University	4	72.2		
Kansas City University of Physicians and Surgeons	9	60.7	31	61.6
Kirkville College of Osteopathy	8	57.7	23	60.8
Laval			5	66.8
McGill University	3	82.8		
Philadelphia College of Osteopathy	15	69.7	15	70.4
St. Louis College of Physicians and Surgeons			6	40.9
University of Michigan	3	79.		
University of Pennsylvania	3	80.		
University of Vermont	4	78.2		
Yale	3	78.5		

TABLE IV

The following tabulation is based upon the results of the examination of applicants during the year covered by this report:

School	Number taking exam. for first time			Number failed in prev. exam. being re-examined			Total number passed	Total number rejected	Total number examined
	Passed	No.	Rejected Yr. Grad.	Passed	No.	Rejected Yr. Grad.			
Boston University School of Medicine	17	1	1931	1			18	3	21
		2	1932						
College of Physicians and Surgeons, Boston	1	4	1932	3	1	1930	4	12	16
					5	1931			
					2	1932			
Harvard Medical School	27	1	1930	1			28	2	30
		1	1932						
Massachusetts College of Osteopathy	2	1	1926	4	2	1926	6	26	32
		2	1931		2	1929			
		5	1932		12	1930			
					2	1931			
Middlesex College of Medicine and Surgery	27	1	1925	5	2	1925	32	58	90
		2	1930		2	1926			
		7	1932		2	1927			
					4	1928			
					23	1929			
					9	1930			
					5	1931			
					1	1932			
Tufts College Medical School	55	1	1931	4	2	1928	59	6	65
		3	1932						
Baylor University	1						1	0	1
Chicago College of Osteopathy	1	1	1932	1			1	2	3
Columbia University	2						2	0	2
Cornell University	2						2	0	2
Dalhousie University	1						1	0	1
Des Moines Still College of Osteopathy		1	1927		3	1930			
		1	1931				0	5	5
Georgetown University	2	1	1930	1			3	2	5
		1	1931						
Hahnemann Medical College, Philadelphia	1						1	0	1
Howard University College of Medicine	1						1	0	1
Johns Hopkins	2						2	0	2
Kansas City University of Physicians and Surgeons	0	1	1928	3	1	1922	3	37	40
		1	1931		4	1927			
		7	1932		8	1929			
					9	1930			
					3	1931			
					3	1932			

TABLE IV — *Continued*

School	Number taking exam. for first time			Number failed in prev. exam. being re-examined			Total number passed	Total number rejected	Total number examined
	Passed	No.	Rejected Yr. Grad.	Passed	No.	Rejected Yr. Grad.			
Kirkville College of Osteopathy	0	4 4	1929 1932	3	7 3 7 3 2 3	1929 1930 1931 1932 1925 1930	3	23	31
Laval							0	5	5
Long Island College Hospital	1						1	0	1
McGill University	3						3	0	3
Medical College, So. Carolina					1	1925	0	1	1
Missouri College of Medicine and Science		1	1927		1	1927	0	2	2
Philadelphia College of Osteopathy	2	1 1 11	1930 1931 1932	4	7 4	1931 1932	6	24	30
Queen's University	1						1	0	1
Royal University of Rome	1						1	0	1
Rush Medical School	1						1	0	1
St. Louis College of Physicians and Surgeons				0	3 3	1920 1923	0	6	6
St. Louis University				1	1	1928	1	1	2
University of Buffalo	1						1	0	1
University of Illinois	1						1	0	1
University of Indiana	1						1	0	1
University of Iowa	1						1	0	1
University of Michigan	3						3	0	3
University of Montreal		1	1932		1	1932	0	2	2
University of Paris		1	1923	1			1	1	2
University of Pennsylvania	3						3	0	3
University of Pittsburgh	1						1	0	1
University of Prague				1	1	1924	1	1	2
University of Tennessee	1						1	0	1
University of Toronto	2						2	0	2
University of Vermont	3	1	1930				3	1	4
University of Virginia	2						2	0	2
Washington University	1						1	0	1
Western Reserve	2						2	0	2
Yale Medical School	3						3	0	3

The following tabulation shows the record of rejected applicants, and the institutions from which they were graduated:

TABLE V

School	Number of rejected applicants	Year of graduation	Number of times examined	Result of examinations
Boston University School of Medicine	1	1931	2	Reg. 2nd. exam.
	1	1931	1	Not registered
	2	1932	1	Not registered
College of Physicians and Surgeons, Boston	1	1926	2	Reg. 2nd. exam.
	2	1931	5	Not registered
	1	1931	3	Reg. 3rd. exam.
	3	1932	2	Not registered
Harvard Medical School	1	1932	1	Not registered
	1	1932	1	Not registered
Massachusetts College of Osteopathy	1	1926	14	Not registered
	1	1926	1	Not registered
	1	1929	5	Not registered
	3	1930	7	Not registered
	1	1930	5	Not registered
	1	1930	3	Not registered
	1	1931	3	Not registered
	1	1931	2	Reg. 2nd. exam.
	3	1932	2	Reg. 2nd. exam.
	2	1932	1	Not registered
Middlesex College of Physicians and Surgeons	1	1923	19	Not registered
	1	1925	9	Not registered
	1	1926	13	Not registered
	1	1926	2	Not registered
	1	1927	5	Not registered
	1	1928	7	Not registered
	1	1928	6	Not registered
	2	1929	9	Not registered
	3	1929	7	Not registered
	3	1929	6	Not registered
	2	1929	5	Not registered
	1	1929	3	Reg. 3rd. exam.
	1	1929	3	Not registered
	1	1930	6	Not registered
	1	1930	5	Not registered
	1	1930	3	Reg. 3rd. exam.
	1	1930	2	Reg. 2nd. exam.
	1	1930	2	Not registered
	1	1931	5	Reg. 5th. exam.
	1	1931	4	Not registered
	1	1932	2	Reg. 2nd. exam.
	1	1932	2	Not registered
	6	1932	1	Not registered
Tufts College Medical School	1	1928	2	Not registered
	1	1930	2	Reg. 2nd. exam.
	1	1931	2	Reg. 2nd. exam.
	2	1932	2	Reg. 2nd. exam.
Chicago College of Osteopathy	1	1932	1	Not registered
	1	1932	2	Not registered
Des Moines Still College of Osteopathy	1	1927	1	Not registered
	1	1930	5	Not registered
	1	1931	1	Not registered
Georgetown University	1	1930	2	Reg. 2nd. exam.
	1	1931	1	Not registered
Kansas City University of Physicians and Surgeons	1	1922	2	Not registered
	1	1927	11	Not registered
	1	1927	2	Not registered
	1	1928	1	Not registered
	1	1929	7	Not registered
	1	1929	5	Not registered
	2	1929	4	Not registered
	1	1930	17*	Not registered
	1	1930	8	Not registered
	1	1930	4	Not registered
	1	1931	5	Reg. 5th. exam.
	1	1931	3	Reg. 3rd. exam.
	1	1931	1	Not registered
	1	1932	2	Reg. 2nd. exam.
	2	1932	2	Not registered
	3	1932	1	Not registered

* Includes 9 examinations previous to 1930 as a graduate of St. Louis College of Physicians and Surgeons.

TABLE V—*Continued*

School	Number of rejected applicants	Year of graduation	Number of times examined	Result of examinations
Kirkville College of Osteopathy and Surgery	2	1929	3	Not registered
	3	1929	2	Not registered
	1	1929	1	Not registered
	1	1930	4	Not registered
	2	1931	5	Not registered
	1	1931	3	Reg. 3rd. exam.
	1	1931	2	Reg. 2nd. exam.
	2	1931	2	Not registered
	3	1932	2	Not registered
	1	1932	1	Not registered
Laval	1	1925	11	Not registered
	1	1930	4	Not registered
Medical College of South Carolina	1	1925	2	Not registered
Missouri College of Medicine and Science	1	1927	2	Not registered
Philadelphia College of Osteopathy	1	1930	1	Not registered
	1	1931	5	Not registered
	2	1931	3	Not registered
	1	1931	2	Reg. 2nd. exam.
	2	1931	2	Not registered
	1	1932	2	Reg. 2nd. exam.
	6	1932	2	Not registered
St. Louis College of Physicians and Surgeons	4	1932	1	Not registered
	1	1920	4	Not registered
	1	1923	17	Not registered
St. Louis University	1	1928	3	Reg. 3rd. exam.
University of Montreal	1	1932	2	Not registered
University of Paris	1	1928	2	Reg. 2nd. exam.
University of Prague	1	1924	4	Reg. 4th. exam.
University of Vermont	1	1930	1	Not registered

In discussing these figures, a word should be said about the "foreign schools" for last year the comment was made that "unfamiliarity with the English language is a handicap to a number of students from this group." There are indications that the number for whom this is true will decrease rapidly in the near future.

It is well-known that there are not enough medical schools in this country to enroll all the candidates who desire to study medicine and who have fulfilled all the formal requirements for admission to approved medical schools. Of late, therefore, many of these students have gone abroad and it has been estimated that this year there are fifteen hundred Americans enrolled in European medical schools. Most of these candidates have been refused admission to some approved medical school in this country, for the procedure for admission here, is in general, to accept up to the capacity of the school the best qualified candidates who meet the formal requirements. There is a considerable number left over, some qualified, but many not qualified because of low grade. While there is a tremendous demand for medical education in this country, it is not clear that there is a corresponding demand for doctors after graduation. Numerical comparisons with other countries which have good medical service, suggest that there are too many physicians in the United States, and especially in Massachusetts. Yet few persons who are sick, at least, would complain that physicians know too much, or are too well trained.

These American students now in foreign medical schools may constitute a new danger to the United States, though how great the danger may be, is not yet clear, for exact information as to the situation is not yet available. But warnings have already been sent out by responsible persons that the danger may be great. Apparently, the standards in some European universities, for (to them) foreign students are being lowered. Economic factors may play a part in this movement. Such "foreigners" who receive the medical degree will not be allowed to register for practice in the country in which the degree is conferred, and if they come

from the United States, they will return to this country. They will be without qualification by hospital service, internship, examination for "license" and other privileges granted by these colleges to their native students. We may then expect a flood of unqualified physicians from this source. If these fears are confirmed, and this is so recent a development that its force cannot yet be estimated, every State in the Union, except Massachusetts, can protect itself, for these schools with low standards can be declared "not approved", or specific conditions can be laid down under the discretionary power. Massachusetts will be perfectly helpless without this provision in the statute, and it will be "foreign dumping" on Massachusetts with a vengeance.

The Board presents a statistical compilation of the number of complaints which have been made to it concerning physicians since July 1, 1925. This date has been chosen, as at that time, a new system of keeping records was installed which has made the compiling of these figures much easier. Complaints against five groups of physicians may be noted: (1) graduates of "approved schools" 144; (2) graduates of "not approved" schools, 77; (3) registered in 1894 on years of practice, 3; (4) registered without a degree in medicine, 1; (5) graduates before 1911 of schools which were later classified as "not approved", 26. It was about 1911 that the classification of schools became effective, and "approved" or "not approved" refers to the standards of evaluating bodies outside of Massachusetts.

These complaints may be compared with the number of physicians in practice in each group a matter difficult to determine exactly, but the estimates given are based on the best available figures. (1) Graduates of approved schools, 5,288; (2) graduates of "not approved" schools, 540; (3) registered in 1894 on years of practice, 117; (4) registered without degree, 69; (5) graduates before 1911, 407. The percentages are as follows: (1) $2\frac{3}{4}$; (2) $14\frac{1}{4}$; (3) $2\frac{2}{3}$; (4) $1\frac{1}{2}$; (5) $6\frac{1}{3}$. Groups (3) and (4) may be disregarded because the numbers are so small. Group (5) tends merely to confirm the conclusion to be drawn from Groups (1) and (2) which is that the public has made complaint to the Board against physicians relatively more than five times as often in the case of graduates of "not approved" schools as in the case of graduates of "approved" schools.

It is the opinion of the Board from its experience in dealing with complaints against physicians that the qualifications for the practice of medicine in Massachusetts should be raised. When one compares the qualifications for practice in other States with those in Massachusetts, one finds that all the rest lead Massachusetts. This difference in standards is not immediately clear upon a consideration of the statutes, but the reason for the difference is apparent at once. In every Jurisdiction in the United States (federal and state), except Massachusetts, the Board of Registration in Medicine is given some discretionary power of approval of medical schools from which it is to accept candidates. Only candidates from "adequate", "satisfactory", "reputable", "recognized" or "approved" schools may take the examinations.

These statutes in other jurisdictions indicate that outside of Massachusetts it is thought that the examination test which indeed here also is regarded as only supplementary, cannot, in the words of the statute, "be sufficiently thorough to test the applicant's fitness to practice medicine." With the demand of the law that the applicant be fit, no one can disagree, but that another test, preliminary to the examination should be introduced, is the opinion of the Board. This additional preliminary test has been introduced into the statutes by the law-making body in every jurisdiction in the United States outside of Massachusetts. If enacted here, it would merely raise Massachusetts formally to the level of other states, often regarded by us as more backward than we are in setting educational standards.

A consideration of the statutes in Massachusetts concerning every other Board of Registration under the Division of Registration which licenses applicants who have to do with the bodies of living persons, and which accepts applicants for examination from a school of preparation, shows that the Board of Registration in Medicine alone has not had this discretionary power conferred upon it.

In order that the practice of medicine in Massachusetts may be less perilous to the people of this Commonwealth, the Board of Registration in Medicine (1) asks that the qualifications for the practice of medicine be raised; (2) makes the following recommendations; and (3) submits the accompanying bill.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Since there are in the United States medical schools legally chartered and empowered to confer degrees in medicine, which are deemed unworthy of approval by competent evaluating bodies, the Board of Registration in Medicine asks that it be given power of approval of those medical schools whose graduates appear before the Board for examination, as now provided by law. As in the Federal Jurisdictions and in every State jurisdiction in the United States (except Massachusetts), the Board of Registration in Medicine has some discretionary power of approval, and as in Massachusetts every Board of Registration in the Division of Registration which accepts candidates from a school, except the Board of Registration in Medicine, has some discretionary power of approval of the school, the Board of Registration in Medicine asks that it be given this power commensurate with the importance of its services to the Commonwealth.

1. The qualification "which gives a full four years' course of instruction of not less than thirty-six weeks in each year" does not now give protection, and would be included under the more comprehensive term, "which is approved by the Board," if found to be in conformity with general usage.

2. Explicit "approval" by the Board is the wording most frequently found in the statutes of other jurisdictions, and especially in the most recent legislation.

3. The exemption of students in actual attendance, at the time of the passage of the bill, in medical schools now eligible is reasonable and just.

An Act relative to the Qualifications of Applicants for Registration as Qualified Physicians.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representative in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Section 1. Section two of chapter one hundred and twelve of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out, in the tenth and eleventh lines, the words, "which gives a full four years' course of instruction of not less than thirty-six weeks in each year," and inserting in place thereof the words:—which is approved by the board,—so that the second sentence will read as follows:—Each applicant, who shall furnish the board with satisfactory proof that he is twenty-one or over and of good moral character, that he possesses the educational qualifications required for graduation from a public high school, and that he has received the degree of doctor of medicine, or its equivalent, either from a legally chartered medical school having the power to confer degrees in medicine, which is approved by the board, or from any legally chartered medical school, having such power, if such applicant was, on March tenth, nineteen hundred and seventeen, a matriculant thereof, shall, upon payment of twenty-five dollars, be examined, and if found qualified by the board, be registered as a qualified physician and entitled to a certificate in testimony thereof, signed by the chairman and secretary.

Section 2. Nothing in this act shall apply to any applicant for registration as aforesaid, who at the time of the passage hereof is a student in a legally chartered medical school as described in section two of said chapter one hundred and twelve, but as to such applicant the provisions of said chapter one hundred and twelve in force prior to the passage of this act shall continue to apply.

The Board has been in actual session nineteen days; has conducted thirty-seven hearings; revoked two certificates of registration, suspended seven, and restored eight. Six hearings were continued, five of which were taken up and disposed of at later hearings. Two physicians were placed on probation, six letters of censure were written, five cases were dismissed, and no action was taken in four cases. The time given by the individual members of the Board in rating examination books is not included in the thirty-seven days devoted to Board meetings.

Eighty-two complaints were made to the Board during the year. Fifteen of these complaints came up for hearing before the full Board, ten conferences were held, and after investigation, no action was taken in fifty-seven cases.

By vote of the Board, the Chairman and Secretary have been empowered to hold conferences in certain instances with physicians relative to whom complaints have been made in order to ascertain if Board hearings are necessary. Conferences with ten physicians have been held. In this manner, the time of the members has been saved and financial economy for the State has been effected.

October 11, 1932, Dr. Mark Shrum was appointed in the place of Dr. Henry L. Houghton, who had completed nine years of service on the Board.

REGISTRATION OF CHIROPODISTS

The Board has examined twenty-six applicants for registration this year, seventeen of whom were registered on first examination, and four on the second examination. Each examination has occupied one full day. The written exercises are conducted in the State House, and the practical demonstrations under the supervision of Messers. Kenison and Pettingill at the School of Chiropody. Each applicant is required to provide his own equipment for the practical work and to furnish a patient upon whom to demonstrate his fitness for practice.

During the year, Drs. Knowlton, Rushmore, Sylvester, have represented the Board of Registration in Medicine, and the Messers. Kenison and Pettingill the chiropodists in this work.

There were five hundred and five chiropodists who took out annual renewal registration certificates for the year 1932.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES P. SYLVESTER, M. D., *Chairman.*
STEPHEN RUSHMORE, M. D., *Secretary.*
ROBERT F. HOVEY, M. D.

DANIEL J. HURLEY, M. D.
EDWARD A. KNOWLTON, M. D.
MARK SHRUM, M. D.
ROYAL P. WATKINS, M. D.

